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Source Reference

ch. II - B

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13 August 1970

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

SUBJECT: Security Organization and Function in
Predecessors to CIA

1. On 11 August 1970, [REDACTED], a division chief in the Dissemination Branch, Central Reference Service (DDI/CRS), was interviewed at his office, G-H-0922, Headquarters Building (Ext. 5310). [REDACTED] is completely cooperative with the purposes of inquiries concerning the subject matter. From his memory, and some reference to a few of the Historical Project materials, he gave the following relevant information:

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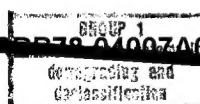
a. He started employment with COI in April or May 1942; first was in the Budget and Finance Office, and was transferred to the Security Office in late 1942 or early 1943. By this time, COI had become OSS, and he left OSS in August 1943 to enter military service, having re-employable rights in civilian employment with OSS. After his discharge from the military in March 1946, he returned to employment in SSU, which had replaced OSS. He was employed by Security Office of SSU beginning in April 1946, at which time CIG was in the formative stage. On either October, or November 16, 1946, he received a personnel notice transferring him from SSU to CIG. In CIG he was assigned to the Security Office of OSO. He continued on into the Security Office of CIA and has been with the Agency continuously since that time, having transferred from Security to OCR.

b. When he went into the Security Office of ^{COI}~~OSI~~, the Chief there was [REDACTED] who had had such position for some period of time. He recalls [REDACTED]

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as a sincere and hard-working man who came from a manufacturing-owning family in the New York area. He believes [REDACTED] worked for [REDACTED] possibly as his assistant, and recalls that [REDACTED] also came from a family of prominence and good background of the New York area. He said that COL. WILLIAM J. DONOVAN, who headed COI and the OSS, had come from a Wall Street legal firm, brought into the organization quite a number of men of prominent New York families whom he knew personally, and that neither [REDACTED] had had any previous security experience of which he [REDACTED] was aware.

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c. He did not know any naval lieutenant who was or had been Chief, Security Officer of COI, and doubted that [REDACTED] the Security Officer of COI during his time there, was a naval lieutenant. (The OSS History states: "Donovan appointed an experienced naval officer, already attached to COI in a liaison capacity, as the first Security Officer.") He said there was a Navy Lt. [REDACTED] at the Security Office, but he was not the Chief.

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d. He was in the Physical Security Section or Division of the COI Security Office, the Chief of which was U.S. Army [REDACTED] also, from a New York family known to Col. DONOVAN; [REDACTED] an attorney at Washington who since had died; [REDACTED] who after she married was [REDACTED] and continued in the Badge Office of the Agency for many years and only recently retired; and a woman named [REDACTED] possibly the wife of a man who became an Ambassador. [REDACTED] came into the Physical Security Office in July or August 1943, just before he [REDACTED] left to enter military service.

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e. His physical security duties were preparation and issuance of badges. The COI badge in use when he came there was a light-metal pin badge, about 1 1/2" x 2", containing a

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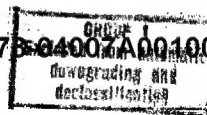
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small face photograph, the initials "COI," and possibly a number. He is hazy in recollection as to whether or not it was required to wear this badge openly within the COI buildings, but from the fact that it had a pin for attachment to one's clothing, he assumes it was intended, at least originally, for such use. These badges were purchased under contract from some company, and The Badge Office added the photograph to them.

f. With the start of OSS these badges were changed. The new OSS badge or identification was a 2 1/2" x 3 1/2" laminated half-length photograph, containing nothing more. The Badge Office had a laminating heat press machine and the clear plastic sheets, as well as camera equipment, to produce these badges. These badges were not worn openly with the OSS buildings, and had no pin or clip or opening for a chain to allow such wearing. They were kept in one's wallet or pocket, to be shown to gain entrance to a building.

g. While his chief function was badging, he did some work on safes, such as changing safe combinations. So far as he knows, the Security Office kept no record of the combinations; the safe custodians only keeping records of them. The safes were old ones; Mosler 2-drawer, Remington-Rand, Mosler one and two-door, and bar-lock cabinets. The locks were three-way combination ones, usually Yale. There were no "manipulation proof" combination locks, those familiar ones of Sargent and Greenleaf not coming in until years later. He recalls that many of the safes were not very good ones, and that some of the combination locks had three discs on "tumblers" that fitted together with small nubs and holes (instead of small grooves around the disc), so that they could be set only every five numbers or so, cutting down very much on the number of possible combinations, and hence making it comparatively easy to open them without knowledge of the combination at which they had been set.

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25X1A9a h. He recalls getting chairs to set up in one of the large rooms for [REDACTED], probably for security lectures [REDACTED] was going to give. He made no physical security surveys or inspections of buildings, and knows of none that were made. There were no grilles on the windows of the COI buildings, except possibly on those of the basement of Central Building where [REDACTED] had his TSS-type operation. 25X1A9a

25X1A9a Neither [REDACTED] nor anyone from his office went to any COI or OSS facility outside the immediate Headquarters area.

i. The physical security offices were in "Q" Building. He had been in North Building with Budget and Finance and recalls that the construction of Temporary "Q" Building cost OSS just under a million dollars. The project was started under COI with a planned larger building, one additional wing, at an estimated cost of a million and a half, and when OSS took over, it cut down on the size and the cost.

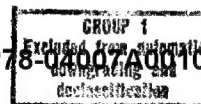
25X1A9a j. When he came back from service, OSS was out of business and had been succeeded by SSU. [REDACTED] had left the Security Office, as had his successor [REDACTED]. 25X1A9a

25X1A9a The Chief of the Security Division of SSU was [REDACTED]. 25X1A9a

25X1A9a [REDACTED] told him he was not going to send him back to physical security but was going to make an "all around security man" of him. He was sent to the Personnel Security Section, where he took over the job of [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

25X1A9a [REDACTED] who was going on vacation. His work there was almost entirely giving security exit briefings to former OSS personnel whose services were being terminated. He no longer had anything to do with physical security work.

25X1A9a k. He said that at this time in 1946, although he worked for SSU, the new CIG was being formed. He referred to [REDACTED] who is in the State Branch of the Documents Division of CRS [REDACTED] said she started on 1 October 1941 in COI in its Central Mail Room, and under OSS, worked for its Secretariat, then the Services 25X1A9a

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25X1A9a Branch, then OCD, and then the old ORR Reading Panel. She said that during the formation of CIG, the Services Branch under [REDACTED] was moved to what is now New State Department Building, and there the high-level group forming CIG had their offices, but had to move out to North Interior Building for a while before coming back to 25th and E Streets as CIG.

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1. [REDACTED] continued that later on, in 1946, he was transferred to Security Office of the Office of Special Operations (OSO) of CIG. At the beginning, OSO kept itself completely separate from the rest of CIG, this being to the extent that the members of the Security Office he joined called themselves not the Security Office of CIG, but the Security Office of OSO. [REDACTED] was brought into OSO [REDACTED] to head this security unit, and his Deputy was [REDACTED], under whom [REDACTED] worked. They kept apart from the new security staff being formed by CIG, but finally Lt. Col. [REDACTED] became the head of CIG Security and was made [REDACTED]

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25X1A9a m. Referring to the CIG Security Regulations of 15 August 1947, [REDACTED] said that he did not know who had prepared these, and had had no part in this himself.

n. As to Executive Order 10290 of September 1951 (which preceded EO 10501), [REDACTED] said this had provided for the words "Security Information" to appear with the classification category, and was an innovation. He believes there was a previous E.O. on the same subject of safeguarding of classified material, as he recalls having to insert this provision in the similar Order they previously had been using.

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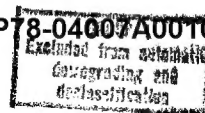
o. [REDACTED] did not recall [REDACTED] nor the Security Branch of OCD which the latter had headed.

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p. [REDACTED] stated that, so far as he recalled, the PBA guards were not under the jurisdiction of the Security Office, either when he started with COI and into OSS, or when he returned and was with OSO under SSU. His memory was that the guards seemed to

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come along with the buildings and such control of them as was exercised was by whatever offices took care of the buildings and the space requirements.

2. The interview was concluded without going into further matters about which [REDACTED] might have information, 25X1A9a and it was agreed that there would be a further interview at a subsequent date, by which time he might be able to locate some old records of possible relevancy.

[REDACTED]

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OS/Historical Staff

OS/HS / [REDACTED]
(13 Aug 70 -- [REDACTED])

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification